

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE ABOUT
UNITY**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, in this holiday season we are grateful for the familiar traditions of each of our faiths that comfort us and connect us with others. We are also thankful for the unprecedented unity of the Congress, the country, and the larger global community in its shared determination to aid the victims of September 11, and to defeat the forces of terrorism.

To maintain and strengthen that unity for the work that lies ahead, we need to find new ways to solve conflict and to overcome the suspicions that arise from differences in culture, race, religion, economic condition and political ideology. Establishment of shared traditions that promote intercultural contact will help.

On December 15, 2000, the 106th Congress unanimously approved a measure that calls for annual worldwide commemoration of the successful "One Day in Peace January 1, 2000" with shared meals, inter-cultural exchange, pledges of non-violence, and gifts to the hungry.

One Day in Peace provides an unparalleled example of global cooperation that is both instructive and inspiring. On that first day of the new millennium several billion people and nearly every government in the world acted responsibly, cooperatively and with astonishing success to avert the combined threats of unruly crowds, terrorism and fears of Armageddon—as well as feared panic and hoarding related to expected computer failures. The "OneDay" movement, begun by children and eventually pledged by one hundred countries, 1000 organizations in 135 countries, 25 U.S. governors and hundreds of mayors worldwide surely helped. The result could be called the world's first deliberate day of peace.

We believe this collective achievement by much of humankind is worth remembering and repeating each year. The United Nations General Assembly agrees. It recently adopted a resolution (56/2) inviting all Member States, and all people in the world to celebrate "One Day in Peace 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter."

At this season, as we enjoy the time-honored holiday traditions of our separate faiths, let us also celebrate a new tradition with a simple, world-wide all-faith holiday observance (comparable to our American Thanksgiving) that demonstrates our mutual resolve to create a future world of peace and sharing.

The schoolchildren who brought the concept of the "OneDay" holiday to Capitol Hill (some of the youngest and most energetic lobbyists we've seen) urge all Americans to celebrate OneDay by pledging non-violence to one another on January first. They also ask us to seek out someone of another culture and share a meal together, then match or multiply the cost of that meal with a gift to the hungry

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

at home or abroad, in tangible demonstration of our desire for increased friendship and sharing.

We think these young peacemakers have a good idea. Happy holidays, both old and new!

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOND
PROMOTION ACT OF 2002**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Mr. NEAL and Mr. ENGLISH, in introducing the "Industrial Development Bond Promotion Act of 2002." While retaining the dollar limit on the tax-exempt issue itself, the bill broadens the pool of manufacturers who may be eligible to take advantage of the benefits of qualified small issue bonds.

Qualified small issue bonds play an important role in creating and sustaining a vibrant manufacturing sector in rural communities. Today, however, the so-called "\$10 million limit" impedes many growing manufacturers from taking advantage of the benefits of qualified small issue bonds. This rule states that the aggregate face amount of the issue, together with the aggregate amount of certain related capital expenditures during a six-year period beginning three years before the date of issue and ending three years after that date, must not exceed \$10 million. This \$10 million limit was imposed in 1978. It does not consider changes in the economy, inflation, or the increased costs associated with the construction of manufacturing facilities. Even in small rural communities like those in the district, industrial development authorities have projects that routinely exceed this \$10 million limit and are therefore ineligible for this type of financing.

The Industrial Development Bond Promotion Act of 2002 would permit capital expenditures of \$30 million to be disregarded in determining the aggregate face amount of certain qualified small issue bonds.

Given today's global economy and proof that U.S. manufacturers are not adverse to building and manufacturing offshore, it is most important that the calculation of the limit be changed. Across the country, manufacturing jobs are declining. The manufacturing sector's share of all U.S. jobs slipped from 17 percent ten years ago to 13 percent today. Small issue bonds are a valuable tool to local economic development authorities and go a long way toward creating and maintaining investment in manufacturing facilities in communities throughout our country.

We encourage our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

*December 20, 2001*HAROLD BENGSCCH AWARDED 2001
HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated civil servant who is working daily to improve the health of residents in the Seventh Congressional District of Missouri.

Earlier this month, Harold Bengsch, the Director of the Springfield-Greene County, Missouri Health Department, was awarded the 2001 Humanitarian of the Year Award, established by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. The recognition comes with a \$5,000 cash award that is to be divided between the recipient and the charities of their choice. Mr. Bengsch, true to the reasons why he was so honored, gave the entire amount to charity.

Harold received the award for three decades of outstanding work improving the area's public health. His dedication and vision were instrumental in cutting the number of children testing positive for elevated blood lead levels in Greene County from 28 percent to 15 percent. Under his leadership, immunization rates for children at two years of age has increased from less than 50 percent to more than 90 percent. As director of the local health department, Harold has conducted research, had his studies published in professional journals and is responsible for the ongoing management of the ever growing city-county public health programs. These programs include disease control, preventive and environmental health and medical services.

Harold is a proven problem solver. He is a master at bringing people together—those who need the service and those who provide it. His soft-spoken manner, intelligence and broad experience in public health issues makes Harold Bengsch an invaluable resource to his community and well respected throughout the state of Missouri.

The unreasonable actions of government bureaucrats are regularly criticized on the Floor of the House. In this case I want my colleagues to know there is at least one bureaucrat who is doing an outstanding job of serving the public. I can assert without hesitation that the public health of Springfield Greene County and Southwest Missouri is better today because of the work, effort and vision of Harold Bengsch.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on H. Res. 320, H.R. 3529, and the motion to recommit H.R. 3529. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 320 and H.R. 3529, and "nay" on the motion to recommit H.R. 3529.